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Substitute for form 1449/PTO				Complete If Known	
				Application Number	Not Yet Assigned // <i>552707</i>
				Filing Date	Concurrently Herewith
				First Named Inventor	Helmut D. LINK
				Art Unit	Not Yet Assigned
				Examiner Name	Not Yet Assigned
Sheet	1	of	1	Attorney Docket Number	246472008500

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code ² (if known)			
/AS/	1.	5,514,180-A	05-07-1996	HEGGENESS	
/AS/	2.	6,083,228-A	07-04-2000	MICHELSON	
/AS/	3.	6,296,664-B1	10-02-2001	MIDDLETON	
/AS/	4.	6,517,580-B1	02-11-2003	RAMADAN	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Country Code ³ -Number ⁴ -Kind Code ⁵ (if known)			
/AS/	5.	DE-4423826-A1	01-12-1995	Asahi Optical Co Ltd	Abstract
/AS/	6.	WO-97/20526-A1	06-12-1997	BRAY	1 ✓
/AS/	7.	WO-01/01893-A	01-11-2001	Spine Solutions Inc.	Abstract

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NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS					
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¹Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ²Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Examiner Signature	/Ann Schillinger/	Date Considered	03/30/2007
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va-138036



Substitute for form 1449/PTO				<i>Complete if Known</i>	
				Application Number	10/552,707
				Filing Date	October 7, 2005
				First Named Inventor	Helmut D. LINK
				Art Unit	Not Yet Assigned
				Examiner Name	Not Yet Assigned
Sheet	1	of	1	Attorney Docket Number	246472008500

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/AS/	1.	International Preliminary Report on Patentability directed to counterpart PCT/EP2004/001029			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

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